

(d) SUNSET.—The authority for the Director to make grants under this section shall terminate on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1988. Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 2507(b)(3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), insert “, subject to the availability of appropriations” after “may”.

In section 2507(b)(3)(C), strike “by any prior or subsequent Act.”.

In section 2507(b), add at the end the following:

(5) LIMITATION.—The authorities provided for under paragraph (3), and the requirements thereof, shall be in addition to any other authorities provided under the law.

SA 1989. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III of division F, insert the following:

SEC. ____ WORKER OWNERSHIP, READINESS, AND KNOWLEDGE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EXISTING PROGRAM.—The term “existing program” means a program, designed to promote employee ownership and employee participation in business decisionmaking, that exists on the date on which the Secretary is carrying out a responsibility authorized under this section.

(2) INITIATIVE.—The term “Initiative” means the Employee Ownership and Participation Initiative established under subsection (b).

(3) NEW PROGRAM.—The term “new program” means a program, designed to promote employee ownership and employee participation in business decisionmaking, that does not exist on the date on which the Secretary is carrying out a responsibility authorized under this section.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Labor.

(5) STATE.—The term “State” has the meaning given the term under section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(b) EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Labor shall establish within the Department of Labor an Employee Ownership and Par-

ticipation Initiative to promote employee ownership and employee participation in business decisionmaking.

(2) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Secretary shall—

(A) support within the States existing programs designed to promote employee ownership and employee participation in business decisionmaking; and

(B) facilitate within the States the formation of new programs designed to promote employee ownership and employee participation in business decisionmaking.

(3) DUTIES.—To carry out the functions enumerated in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

(A) support new programs and existing programs by—

(i) making Federal grants authorized under subsection (d); and

(ii) (I) acting as a clearinghouse on techniques employed by new programs and existing programs within the States, and disseminating information relating to those techniques to the programs; or

(II) funding projects for information gathering on those techniques, and dissemination of that information to the programs, by groups outside the Department of Labor; and

(B) facilitate the formation of new programs, in ways that include holding or funding an annual conference of representatives from States with existing programs, representatives from States developing new programs, and representatives from States without existing programs.

(c) PROGRAMS REGARDING EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program to encourage new programs and existing programs within the States to foster employee ownership and employee participation in business decisionmaking throughout the United States.

(2) PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.—The purpose of the program established under paragraph (1) is to encourage new and existing programs within the States that focus on—

(A) providing education and outreach to inform employees and employers about the possibilities and benefits of employee ownership, business ownership succession planning, and employee participation in business decisionmaking, including providing information about financial education, employee teams, open-book management, and other tools that enable employees to share ideas and information about how their businesses can succeed;

(B) providing technical assistance to assist employee efforts to become business owners, to enable employers and employees to explore and assess the feasibility of transferring full or partial ownership to employees, and to encourage employees and employers to start new employee-owned businesses;

(C) training employees and employers with respect to methods of employee participation in open-book management, work teams, committees, and other approaches for seeking greater employee input; and

(D) training other entities to apply for funding under this subsection, to establish new programs, and to carry out program activities.

(3) PROGRAM DETAILS.—The Secretary may include, in the program established under paragraph (1), provisions that—

(A) in the case of activities described in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) target key groups, such as retiring business owners, senior managers, unions, trade associations, community organizations, and economic development organizations;

(ii) encourage cooperation in the organization of workshops and conferences; and

(iii) prepare and distribute materials concerning employee ownership and participation, and business ownership succession planning;

(B) in the case of activities described in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) provide preliminary technical assistance to employee groups, managers, and retiring owners exploring the possibility of employee ownership;

(ii) provide for the performance of preliminary feasibility assessments;

(iii) assist in the funding of objective third-party feasibility studies and preliminary business valuations, and in selecting and monitoring professionals qualified to conduct such studies; and

(iv) provide a data bank to help employees find legal, financial, and technical advice in connection with business ownership;

(C) in the case of activities described in paragraph (2)(C)—

(i) provide for courses on employee participation; and

(ii) provide for the development and fostering of networks of employee-owned companies to spread the use of successful participation techniques; and

(D) in the case of training described in paragraph (2)(D)—

(i) provide for visits to existing programs by staff from new programs receiving funding under this section; and

(ii) provide materials to be used for such training.

(4) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall issue formal guidance, for recipients of grants awarded under subsection (d) and one-stop partners (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102)) affiliated with the workforce development systems (as so defined) of the States, proposing that programs and other activities funded under this section be—

(A) proactive in encouraging actions and activities that promote employee ownership of, and participation in, businesses; and

(B) comprehensive in emphasizing both employee ownership of, and participation in, businesses so as to increase productivity and broaden capital ownership.

(d) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program established under subsection (c), the Secretary may make grants for use in connection with new programs and existing programs within a State for any of the following activities:

(A) Education and outreach as provided in subsection (c)(2)(A).

(B) Technical assistance as provided in subsection (c)(2)(B).

(C) Training activities for employees and employers as provided in subsection (c)(2)(C).

(D) Activities facilitating cooperation among employee-owned firms.

(E) Training as provided in subsection (c)(2)(D) for new programs provided by participants in existing programs dedicated to the objectives of this section, except that, for each fiscal year, the amount of the grants made for such training shall not exceed 10 percent of the total amount of the grants made under this section.

(2) AMOUNTS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall determine the amount and any conditions for a grant made under this subsection. The amount of the grant shall be subject to paragraph (6), and shall reflect the capacity of the applicant for the grant.

(3) APPLICATIONS.—Each entity desiring a grant under this subsection shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(4) STATE APPLICATIONS.—Each State may sponsor and submit an application under

paragraph (3) on behalf of any local entity consisting of a unit of State or local government, State-supported institution of higher education, or nonprofit organization, meeting the requirements of this section.

(5) APPLICATIONS BY ENTITIES.—

(A) ENTITY APPLICATIONS.—If a State fails to support or establish a program pursuant to this section during any fiscal year, the Secretary shall, in the subsequent fiscal years, allow local entities described in paragraph (4) from that State to make applications for grants under paragraph (3) on their own initiative.

(B) APPLICATION SCREENING.—Any State failing to support or establish a program pursuant to this section during any fiscal year may submit applications under paragraph (3) in the subsequent fiscal years but may not screen applications by local entities described in paragraph (4) before submitting the applications to the Secretary.

(6) LIMITATIONS.—A recipient of a grant made under this subsection shall not receive, during a fiscal year, in the aggregate, more than the following amounts:

- (A) For fiscal year 2022, \$300,000.
- (B) For fiscal year 2023, \$330,000.
- (C) For fiscal year 2024, \$363,000.
- (D) For fiscal year 2025, \$399,300.
- (E) For fiscal year 2026, \$439,200.

(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—For each year, each recipient of a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary a report describing how grant funds allocated pursuant to this subsection were expended during the 12-month period preceding the date of the submission of the report.

(e) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary is authorized to reserve not more than 10 percent of the funds appropriated for a fiscal year to carry out this section, for the purposes of conducting evaluations of the grant programs identified in subsection (d) and to provide related technical assistance.

(f) REPORTING.—Not later than the expiration of the 36-month period following the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to Congress a report—

(1) on progress related to employee ownership and participation in businesses in the United States; and

(2) containing an analysis of critical costs and benefits of activities carried out under this section.

(g) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of making grants pursuant to subsection (d) the following:

- (A) For fiscal year 2022, \$4,000,000.
- (B) For fiscal year 2023, \$7,000,000.
- (C) For fiscal year 2024, \$10,000,000.
- (D) For fiscal year 2025, \$13,000,000.
- (E) For fiscal year 2026, \$16,000,000.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—There are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of funding the administrative expenses related to the Initiative, for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, an amount not in excess of the lesser of—

- (A) \$350,000; or
- (B) 5.0 percent of the maximum amount available under paragraph (1) for that fiscal year.

SA 1990. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, inno-

vation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. ____ REGIONAL INNOVATION CLUSTERS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(2) ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION.—The term “Alaska Native Corporation” has the meaning given the term “Native Corporation” in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

(3) AWARD.—The term “award” means a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement.

(4) CLUSTER INITIATIVE.—The term “Cluster Initiative” means a formally organized effort to promote the growth and competitiveness of an industry sector through collaborative activities among Industry Cluster participants that is led by—

- (A) a State;
- (B) an Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native Corporation, or a Native Hawaiian Organization;
- (C) a city or other political subdivision of a State;
- (D) a nonprofit organization, including an institution of higher education or a venture development organization; or
- (E) a small business concern.

(5) INDUSTRY CLUSTER.—The term “Industry Cluster” means a geographic concentration, relative to the size of the region under consideration, of interconnected businesses, suppliers, service providers, and associated institutions in an industry sector, including advanced manufacturing, precision agriculture, cybersecurity, biosciences, water technologies, energy production and efficiency, and outdoor recreation.

(6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(7) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(8) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term “Native Hawaiian Organization” has the meaning given the term in section 8(a)(15) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(15)).

(9) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term “small business concern” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(10) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

(b) SUPPORTING INDUSTRY CLUSTERS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Administrator shall make awards to Cluster Initiatives that strengthen Industry Clusters in accordance with the requirements under this subsection.

(2) INDUSTRY CLUSTER OUTCOMES.—Cluster Initiatives shall be assessed according to their performance along the following metrics:

(A) Growth in number of small business concerns participating in the Industry Cluster and support industries.

(B) Growth in number of small business concern startups in the Industry Cluster.

(C) Growth in total capital, including revenue and equity investments, flowing to small business concern participants in the Industry Cluster.

(D) Growth in job creation by small business concerns or, in regions with declining total employment, job retention by small business concerns in the Industry Cluster.

(E) Growth in new products, services, or business lines.

(F) Growth in new technologies developed within the Industry Cluster.

(3) REPORTING.—The Administrator shall require Cluster Initiatives to submit annual reports documenting the outcomes in paragraph (2) and the activities contributing to those outcomes.

(4) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In making awards to Cluster Initiatives under this subsection, the Administrator shall consider—

(A) the probable impact of the Cluster Initiative on the competitiveness of the Industry Cluster, including—

(i) whether the Cluster Initiative will be inclusive of any and all organizations that might benefit from participation, including startups, small business concerns not locally owned, and small business concerns rival to existing members of the Industry Cluster; and

(ii) whether the Cluster Initiative will encourage broad participation by and collaboration among all types of participants;

(B) if the proposed Cluster Initiative fits within a broader and achievable economic development strategy;

(C) the capacity and commitment of the sponsoring organization of the Cluster Initiative organization, including—

(i) the expected ability of the Cluster Initiative to access additional funds from other sources; and

(ii) the capacity of the Cluster Initiative to sustain activities once grant funds have been expended;

(D) the degree of involvement from relevant State and regional economic and workforce development organizations, other public purpose institutions (such as universities, community colleges, venture development organizations, and workforce boards), and the private sector, including industry associations;

(E) the extent to which economic diversity across regions of the United States would be increased through the award; and

(F) the geographic distribution of Cluster Initiatives around the United States.

(5) INITIAL AWARD.—The Administrator may make a 1-year award not to exceed \$1,000,000 with each Cluster Initiative.

(6) RENEWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may renew an award made to a Cluster Initiative under paragraph (5)—

(i) for 1 year in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 per year; and

(ii) for a total period not to exceed 5 years.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—A Cluster Initiative shall compete in a new funding opportunity to receive any further awards under this subsection.

(7) MATCHING FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving an award under this subsection, a Cluster Initiative shall provide 1 dollar in non-Federal matching funds, including in-kind contributions, for every 2 dollars received under the award.

(B) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive part of the matching funds requirement under subparagraph (A) for a Cluster Initiative that—

(i) has not previously received an award under this subsection; or

(ii) supports a noncore area, a micropolitan area, or a small metropolitan statistical area with a population of not more than 200,000.

(8) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—The Administrator shall enter into new awards under this